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SRI P. SELVARAJ :—" May I know whether it is not the policy of the Government to convert all local fund hospitals into Government hospitals and if so, how long it will take for the Government to convert the Local Fund Hospital at Payyanur into a Government hospital? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The Government are at present taking over every year five or six of the taluk headquarters hospitals run by district boards. In the district of Malabar all the taluk headquarters hospitals have been already provincialized."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" കഴിഞ്ഞ നാലു മാസമായി മലബാറിൽ പ്രത്യേകിച്ചു വടക്കെ മലബാറിൽ പടർന്നു പിടിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള dysentery മുതലായ അനേക രോഗങ്ങൾ ഹേതുവായി ആസ്പത്രികളിലെ മരുന്നു തീർന്നുപോയിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇന്നു പയ്യന്നൂർ ആസ്പത്രിയിൽ മരുന്നില്ലാതെ ഡോക്ടർ വിഷമിക്കുകയാണു്. ഈ സംഗതി മലബാർ ഡിസ്ട്രിക്ടു് ബോഡു് സ്പെഷ്യൽ അഫീസരേയും, ഡി.എം.ഒ. വിനേയും അറിയിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടു്. അതുകൊണ്ടു് മരുന്നു അടിയന്തരമായി ആവശ്യമാണു്. ഇതിന്നുവേണ്ട നടപടികൾ ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട മന്ത്രി എടുക്കുമോ ? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The matter may be represented to the Special Officer of the District Board."

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—" Since hospitals without medicines will really be a mockery, will the Government instruct the Special Officer who is functioning under them to rush medical supplies and medicines to provide relief to the people so that there may not be merely brick and mortar? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" A general statement that the dispensaries in Malabar are a mockery has been made. It is not correct and exaggerations do not serve any purpose."

SRI A. APPU :—" May I know from the Hon. Minister whether it is a fact that admission of patients in the local fund hospitals are refused for want of funds to meet the dietary charges? If so, will the Government issue instructions to the doctors to collect subscriptions from the public to meet the dietary charges? In fact, I know in certain hospitals doctors are going on begging for paddy to give food to the patients."

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Almost all hospitals are overcrowded and diet is provided for all the patients admitted."

Construction of the road between Cannanore and Irikkoor.

* 142 *Q.*—SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state when the road from Cannanore to Irikkoor via Kayaralam-Mayyil will be completed for public transport and at what stage the construction stands at present?

THE HON. SRI K. RAJARAM :—" The work of forming the road except for the stretch between M 13/4 and 14/4 has been completed. The work on this portion is held up due

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to an injunction order issued by court, on a civil suit filed by the land owners. The work can be proceeded with only after the suit is finally disposed of and the lands are taken possession of by the district board."

MR. SPEAKER :—" May I know from the Hon. Minister whether the matter is still pending in the court? "

THE HON. SRI K. RAJARAM :—" Yes, Sir."

MR. SPEAKER :—" Then it is *sub judice;* I pass on to the next question."

Grant of house-sites to Harijans in Malabar.

* 143 Q.—SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP : Will the Hon. the Minister for Animal Husbandry be pleased to state how many Harijans in Malabar have been granted house-sites after the Government inaugurated the scheme for granting house-sites to Harijans?

THE HON. SRI V. C. PALANISWAMI GOUNDER :—" No house sites have so far been granted to the Harijans in the Malabar district since the sanction of the scheme for the grant of house-sites to the Harijans. Such of the cases where there is urgency for the grant of house-sites have already been taken up by the Collector and preliminary enquiries in the matter are in progress."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" The report on Harijan welfare reveals that inclusive of 1951, house-sites numbering 49,501 by acquisition and 53,207 by assignment were granted to Harijans in the other parts of the State and a sum of Rs. 1,73,918 was spent on acquisition. May I know from the Hon. Minister why this discrimination was practised against Harijans in Malabar? "

THE HON. SRI V. C. PALANISWAMI GOUNDER :—" I may tell the hon. Member that there is no discrimination practised in the case of Malabar district. I may inform the hon. Member that the conditions prevailing in Malabar district are different from the conditions prevailing in other parts of the country. Recently the Government have reviewed the question and have instructed the Collector to take suitable measures in the matter of acquisition of sites. I have got a long note on that subject. If the Hon. Mr. Speaker has no objection, I will read it or I will have it printed and place it on the table of the House."

MR. SPEAKER :—" The Hon. Minister may better get it printed and placed on the table of the House."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" May I know from the Hon. Minister for Animal Husbandry on what date this scheme was inaugurated by the Government and why should there be such inordinate delays from the date of inauguration in disposing of applications from the Harijans for house-sites? "